

January 28, 1957

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
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Dear Josh:

I hear disquieting rumors that a sister institution across the bay is dangling bait before you. I can't run them down because obviously Berkeley is a very stimulating environment. I would like, however, to keep you posted on developments here that might be of interest to you.

First, I have passed your Medical Genetics outline around a bit and find much enthusiasm for the possibility of that kind of basic genetics teaching in the medical school. Especially would you find our new preclinical curriculum receptive to such an effort, for the crux of what we are doing is to emphasize the research approach through a three-year multidiscipline laboratory experience in place of traditional labs in biochemistry, physiology, bacteriology, and pharmacology. I expect this to be fun, and rewarding, and your contribution could fill a big void.

Second, I gathered from my talk with Art Kornberg a few weeks ago that he is not unmovable. The search committee here, I may tell you confidentially, is off to a good start. He will obviously be under active consideration. I am making it my business to push our Executive Committee into the kind of action that will ensure attractive enough conditions of space and budget to entice a man like Art. This will all take time, I know, but since you mentioned it as a key factor in your own decision, I thought I should pass on my impression that things are going well.

Third, the resignation of our dean last week - without going into details - opens tremendous possibilities for strengthening the medical school. Any pessimism about our future that you may have gathered from me should be discounted in view of these recent events. There's more here than can be told in a letter.

I don't need to tell you how much it would mean to us to have you here. I do wish you would keep me posted on how you and Esther are thinking about these things.

Best Wishes,

Avram Goldstein